

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
August 27, 2014



Changes to regulations concerning the labeling of vegetable seeds like those planted by Northford farmer Nelson Ceccarelli (above) were among many new agricultural laws passed by the General Assembly in the 2014 legislative session.

NEW AGRICULTURAL LAWS IMPACT FARMERS, PROPERTY OWNERS, ANIMALS

Compiled by George E. Krivda, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

A number of new laws affecting the Dept. of Agriculture and the community it serves were passed by the General Assembly during the recent 2014 legislative session.

These laws make changes in how the state administers and regulates a variety of agricultural and land-use practices – from the seeds farmers' plant to the preservation of historic agricultural buildings to the feasibility of raising industrial hemp.

The following is a summary of the new laws, many of which are already in force, with the remainder effective Oct. 1. The complete text of each statute is available at www.cga.ct.gov

SEED LAW (PA 14-222)

The act replaces Connecticut's seed law with provisions based on the Association of American Seed Control Officials' Recommended Uniform State Seed Law. Similar to prior law, the act establishes labeling requirements for seed sold, offered for sale, or transported in Connecticut.

Labels must generally contain information about whether the seed was treated with any substance harmful to people or

animals; the name, kind, and variety of seed; the lot number; the seed's origin; any weed seeds present; the seed's germination testing; the name of the person who labeled the seed or who is selling the seed, and other specified information.

The law previously covered only agricultural and vegetable seeds, but now also applies to flower, tree, and shrub seeds. It also expands specific labeling requirements from five to 14 seed categories, including:

- Agricultural, vegetable, and flower seeds treated with a substance or subjected to a process for which a claim is made.
- Agricultural seeds, except cool-season grass seed, seed sold on a pure live basis, or hybrids with less than 95% hybrid seed.
- Cool-season grass seed, including Kentucky bluegrass, fescues and ryegrasses and colonial or creeping bentgrass.
- Coated agricultural seeds.

(Continued on Page 3)

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, Aug. 25, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	50.00	68.00
61-75 lbs.	140.00	180.00
76-90 lbs.	280.00	290.00
91-105 lbs.	295.00	305.00
106 lbs. & up	310.00	315.00
Farm Calves	320.00	330.00
Starter Calves	60.00	65.00
Veal Calves	130.00	175.00
Open Heifers	110.00	155.00
Beef Steers	127.50	151.00
Beef Heifers	117.00	129.00
Feeder Steers	140.00	185.00
Stock Bulls	130.00	175.00
Beef Bulls	120.00	135.00
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	85.00	180.00
Goats each	125.00	330.00
Kid Goats	100.00	130.00
Canners	up to	107.00
Cutters	108.00	112.00
Utility Grade Cows	113.00	117.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	5.00	48.00
Chickens each	3.00	27.00
Ducks each	3.00	15.00
Feeder Pigs	133.00	197.00
Lambs	140.00	195.00
Sheep	65.00	110.00

Auction Open Labor Day, Sept. 1**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.15	1.20
LARGE	1.09	1.18
MEDIUM	.87	.89

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.61	1.70
LARGE	1.58	1.68
MEDIUM	1.21	1.31

NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

		Low	High
49-54	200-300 lbs	80.00	87.00
	300-400 lbs	74.00	80.00
54-58	200-300 lbs	86.00	94.00
	300-400 lbs	86.00	91.00
Sows, US1-3	300-500 lbs	68.00	75.00
	500-700 lbs	77.00	82.50
Boars	595-830 lbs	44.50	44.50

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HIGH
BLUEBERRIES 12/1PT,PULP	30.00	32.00
BEAN,CRANBERRY,BU	40.00	40.00
BEAN GREEN,MACH PICK,BU	18.00	18.00
BEAN GREEN,BU,HAND PICK	24.00	28.00
BEAN WAX, BU	22.00	22.00
BROCCOLI,CROWNS,20LB	23.00	24.00
CABBAGE, GREEN,50IB,BOX	9.00	10.00
CABBAGE, RED 50IB	11.00	14.00
COLLARD	12.00	12.00
CORN,5DZ	11.00	12.00
CUKES,SELECT,1 1/9BU	10.00	13.00
CUKES,SUPER SELECT,1 1/9	16.00	16.00
EGGPLANT,1 1/9 BU	10.00	12.00
KALE,12'S	12.00	14.00
KOHLRABI 12'S	16.00	16.00
KOHLRABI 12'S PURPLE	16.00	16.00
ONIONS GRN LEEK 12'S MED	20.00	22.00
PEPPER,CUBANELLE 11/9BU	8.00	10.00
PEPPER,JALAPENO,1/2BU	12.00	12.00
PEPPER,BELL, GREEN XL	10.00	12.00
PEPPERS TRNING RED LGE	8.00	9.00
RHUBARB 20 IB LGE	35.00	35.00
SQUASH,YELLOW,FCY,1/2BU	15.00	18.00
SQUASH,YELLOW,MED,1/2BU	14.00	16.00
SQUASH, GREEN,FCY,1/2BU	12.00	14.00
SQUASH, GREEN,MED,1/2BU	12.00	14.00
SWISS CHARD,12'S	18.00	18.00
SWISS CHARD,12'S	18.00	18.00
APPLE GING GOLD 80CT,XFCY	28.00	34.00
APPLE,PAULA RED,BU	28.00	30.00
BLACKBERRIES 12-1/2PT	30.00	30.00
NECTARINES 22LB BOX	26.00	26.00
PEAR,CLAPP,4/5BU	30.00	30.00
PEACHES 1/2BU,YELLOW,2 1/2	24.00	24.00
PEACHES 22LB,WHITE,2 1/2	24.00	26.00
PLUM,RED,20LB	28.00	28.00
TOMATOES 25LBS	10.00	15.00

WHOLESALE BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Northeast/Per lb.

	Low	High
BREAST-B/S	2.00	2.05
TENDERLOINS	2.35	2.40
LEGS	.57	.58
LEG QUARTERS	.44	.45
THIGHS	.72	.73
B/S THIGHS	1.18	1.19
WINGS	1.49	1.50
LIVER,5LB TUBS	.55	.60
GIZZARDS	.75	.80

PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Average Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:	Low	High
breakers 75-80% lean	108.00	115.00
boners 80-85% lean	106.00	112.00
lean 85-90% lean	100.00	107.00
CALVES graded bull		
No 1 120-128lbs	280.00	280.00
No 2 120-128lbs	277.00	277.00
No 3 100-130lbs	285.00	295.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm2-3	157.00	158.25
Ch2-3	150.50	153.75
Sel2-3	144.00	148.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS.		
HiCh/prm3-4	153.00	158.50
Ch2-3	148.00	152.50
Sel2-3	145.00	148.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/prm3-4	149.00	153.75
Ch2-3	145.00	148.00
Sel2-3	141.50	145.00
VEALERS	n/a	
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3		
40-60lbs	165.00	220.00
60-80lb	180.00	220.00
80-110lbs	180.00	190.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3		
90-110lbs	90.00	110.00
130-140lbs	100.00	110.00
Bucks		
140-160.lbs	97.00	110.00
190-210lbs	74.00	85.00
220-230lbs hair	94.00	96.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS:Sel.1, by head, est.		
20-40lb	n/a	n/a
40-60lb	122.00	147.00
60-80lb	157.00	210.00
80-100lb	150.00	187.00
Nannies/Does: 90-130lbs	157.00	182.00
130-180lbs	150.00	190.00
Bucks/Billies: 130-150lbs	225.00	255.00
150-200lbs	269.00	390.00

PA GRADED FEEDER PIGS

Lancaster, PA, per cwt. Aug. 6

Gr US 1-	WT 15-20	Low	High
	Wt 20-30	225.00	300.00
	WT 30-40	235.00	275.00
	WT 40-60	160.00	190.00
	WT 60-80	175.00	200.00

EASTERN, PA, HAY

average price per ton

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	250.00-375.00	165.00-205.00
MIXED	220.00-325.00	160.00-215.00
TIMOTHY	230.00-330.00	160.00-200.00
STRAW	90.00-215.00	

FOR SALE

R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

108-R. Purebred Katahdin Ram for sale. Great producer, registration papers available, mostly white. \$350.00. 860-354-9069.

112-R. 2011 Greenhouse 25 X 60, Furnace, Roth Oil Tank, Fans, Micro Gro, Poly Gal Ends Doors, roll up sides, Sodium lights, Benches, \$6,500. 203-233-9677. Photos available. Contact:

Martymonroegardens@gmail.com.

113-R. John Deere 1050 Tractor 4WD/Loader/3PH. Excellent shape, low hours. One owner, always garaged \$12,500. Call 203-457-1949.

115-R. 53.9 acres, Hebron: Frontage on two roads; previous cattle farm; excellent soil; lightly wooded with many trails; driveway in, building lot cleared. Abutter would like to purchase up to 25 acres. 860-872-6637. \$300,000

MISCELLANEOUS

10-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

WANTED

98-R. Standing timber wanted, Hardwood/softwood. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 15 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

(Continued from Page 1)

- Vegetable seeds in packets prepared for use in home gardens or household plantings, or in pre-planted containers, mats, tapes, or other planting devices.
- Vegetable seeds in containers prepared for use in home gardens or household plantings, excluding packets, pre-planted containers, mats, tapes, or other planting devices.
- Flower seeds in packets prepared for use in home gardens or household plantings or in pre-planted containers, mats, tapes, or other planting devices.
- Flower seeds in containers, excluding packets, pre-planted containers, mats, tapes, or other planting devices, and not prepared for use in home gardens or household plantings.
- Agricultural seeds sold on a pure live basis.
- Agricultural and vegetable hybrid seed containing less than 95% hybrid seed.
- Combination mulch, seed, and fertilizer products.
- Combination products containing seed and granular fertilizer.
- Tree or shrub seeds treated with a substance or subjected to a process for which a claim is made.
- Untreated tree or shrub seeds.

The law also increases the penalty for violating the seed law from a fine to a Class D misdemeanor, with a mandatory \$100 fine for the first offense and \$200 for each subsequent offense. In addition to the fine, a person may receive up to 30 days in prison. The act also eliminates a requirement that seed sellers or transporters register annually with the agriculture commissioner.

490 PROGRAM AND CERTAIN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS (PA 14-33)

A new law makes procedural changes to the "490 program," in which eligible farm, forest, open space, and maritime heritage land is assessed for property tax purposes based on its current use, rather than its full market value.

The act also allows municipalities to exempt all horses and ponies from local property taxes, regardless of their use and expands the mandatory property tax exemption for farm machinery. It also extends the application deadline for property tax exemptions for farm machinery, horses, and buildings for farmers granted an extension to submit their personal property tax declarations.

PARTICIPATION IN WIC AND SENIOR NUTRITION FARMERS' MARKET PROGRAMS (SA 14-3)

Requires the agriculture commissioner to implement a two-year pilot program for up to three nonprofit farmers who engage in cooperative retail marketing of Connecticut-grown farm products. Under the pilot program, the farmers would participate as vendors in Connecticut's farmers' market Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Senior Nutrition programs.

HISTORIC AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES (PA 14-101)

Allows municipalities to establish, by ordinance, a property tax incentive program to encourage the preservation of certain historic agricultural structures that are at least 75 years old and meet other criteria.

Under the program, a property owner agrees to offer a municipality a preservation easement for the historic structure for up to 10 years in exchange for a property tax break. The new law provides a mechanism for terminating easements under specified conditions, and authorizes municipalities to penalize property owners who do not comply with their easement agreements.

FARM WINERY SALES AND TASTING PERMIT (PA 14-189)

Creates an off-site farm winery sales and tasting permit that allows farm winery permittees to sell bottles of wine and offer free wine samples manufactured on the farm at up to seven off-site events or functions per year. The permit is valid for one year and has a \$250 annual fee with a \$100 nonrefundable filing fee.

(Continued on Page 4)

FARMLAND PRESERVATION CELEBRATION

300 Farms and Growing

September 20, 2014, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On the Historic Lebanon Green

Jct. Routes 87/207

Since 1978, the Farmland Preservation Program has permanently protected the prime and important farmland soils of 300 farms and nearly 40,000 acres to ensure the

*future of agriculture in Connecticut.
Join us to celebrate this historic milestone!*

Family-Friendly, Free, All Welcome!

Tour Local Protected Farms

Live Music & Dancing

Exhibits & Displays

Chefs Showcasing CT Grown Food

Touch a Tractor/Hay Maze/Pet a Farm Animal

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CTGrown.gov

***For event updates, visit our Facebook page:
[facebook.com/FarmlandPreservationCelebration](https://www.facebook.com/FarmlandPreservationCelebration)***

(Continued from Page 3)

At least five days before an off-site tasting or wine sale, the permittee must notify the Department of Consumer Protection of its date, hours, and location.

BREWERY, WINERY, AND AGRICULTURAL HIGHWAY SIGNS (PA 14-199)

Allows signs bearing directions to farms and facilities related to agricultural tourism, Connecticut-made wine, and Connecticut-made beer to be erected and maintained within 300 feet of state highways with the Department of Transportation's approval.

INDUSTRIAL HEMP FEASIBILITY STUDY (PA 14-191)

Requires the agriculture, consumer protection, and economic and community development commissioners to study the feasibility of legalizing industrial hemp to encourage economic development and increase the number of new businesses in Connecticut.

Each commissioner must study a different aspect of legalizing industrial hemp. The agricultural commissioner must study its production; the consumer protection commissioner, its possession; and the economic and community development commissioner, its sale.

LANDS OF PUBLIC USE AND BENEFIT (PA 14-169)

Authorizes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to designate department-owned lands as "lands of public use and benefit," which includes land used for conservation, public enjoyment, or recreational purposes, or activities to improve or maintain these purposes.

It requires the commissioner to establish, by January 1, 2015, a publicly accessible geographic information map system and database that has a public use and benefit land registry. Also allows the DEEP and agriculture commissioners to place conservation or preservation restrictions on any lands their departments own.

LIABILITY FOR HORSES (PA 14-154)

Specifies that, in any civil action brought against the owner or keeper of any horse (or related animal) to recover damages for an injury the animal allegedly caused, these animals do not belong to a naturally mischievous or vicious species. Also creates a presumption in any civil action that the individual animal does not possess a propensity for behavior that would foreseeably be dangerous to humans. This presumption is rebuttable by evidence that the animal exhibited behavior in the past that alerted the owner or keeper that it had a propensity to engage in the behavior that allegedly caused the injury. The act also prohibits state courts from holding owners or keepers of such animals strictly liable for damages the animals cause.



A property tax incentive program to encourage preservation of certain historic agricultural structures at least 75 years old was created by legislation enacted during the recent session of the General Assembly.

HUMANE EUTHANIZATION (PA 14-226)

With certain exceptions, state law requires that the euthanization of dogs or cats be performed only by licensed veterinarians in a humane manner. This new law adds to these exceptions by exempting euthanizations performed at facilities regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

SAVIN FARM PRESERVATION (PA 14-80)

Authorizes the agriculture commissioner to place a conservation or preservation restriction on the state's Lebanon Agricultural Reserve property in Lebanon, also known as Savin Farm. A conservation or preservation restriction on the farm may conserve the property for agricultural use and enable the commissioner to lease, permit, or license any part of the farm to one or more people or entities to engage in agriculture.

George E. Krivda, Jr. is Chief of Staff at the Dept. of Agriculture and manages the agency's legislative agenda. The preceding article includes information from a report by the General Assembly's Office of Legislative Research.

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**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
www.CTGrown.gov 860-713-2500**

Commissioner steven.reviczky@ct.gov	Steven K. Reviczky 860-713-2501
Marketing george.krivda@ct.gov	George E. Krivda, Jr. (acting) 860-713-2673
Regional Market george.krivda@ct.gov	George E. Krivda, Jr. (acting) 860-713-2673
Farmland Preservation cam.weimar@ct.gov	Cameron Weimar, Ph.D. 860-713-2511
Regulation & Inspection bruce.sherman@ct.gov	Dr. Bruce Sherman 860-713-2504
State Veterinarian mary.lis@ct.gov	Dr. Mary J. Lis 860-713-2505
Aquaculture david.carey@ct.gov	David Carey 203-874-2855
Agricultural Report Editor steve.jensen@ct.gov	Steve Jensen 860-713-2519